

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 1999-850

March 17, 2000

BUSINESS LONG DISTANCE
(BLD, Inc)
Request to Abandon Service

ORDER GRANTING
REQUEST TO ABANDON
SERVICE

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

On November 29, 1999, Business Long Distance (BLD) filed a request to abandon service pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1104(1). In support of its request, BLD stated that it was selling its assets, including customer accounts, to Conversent Communications of Maine, LLC (formerly known as NEVD of Maine). The Commission granted BLD authority to provide interexchange and local service as a reseller in Docket No. 97-238. The Commission granted Conversent authority to provide facilities-based interexchange and local exchange service in Docket No. 98-582.

Because there are a large number of competitive telephone utilities, including Conversent, that are available to serve its former customers, the request to abandon service is granted. Section 1104 allows the Commission to impose reasonable conditions or requirements on the abandonment of service. Normally, we impose a notice requirement. Conversent already provided written notice to BLD's customers of the transfer of BLD's accounts and of the right of customers to select other carriers. Conversent stated that its services are being provided at "equivalent or lower rates." We find the described notice satisfactory.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 17th day of March, 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
Nugent
Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.
